

REMARKS**I. General**

Claims 1-19 stand pending in the present Application. The Non-Final Office Action dated May 17, 2005 (hereinafter Office Action) objected to claims 11-16, rejected claims 1-6, 8-10, and 17-19 as being unpatentable over 35 U.S.C. § 102, and rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of record in light of the amendment and remarks contained herein.

II. Block's Inclusion in Previous Information Disclosure Statements

Paragraph two in the Office Action states the allowability of claims 1-19 was withdrawn based on "the newly discovered reference(s) to Block (US 6,010,156)." However, Block, United States Patent No. 6,010,156 (hereinafter *Block*) is not a newly discovered reference. On May 10, 2005, Applicant mailed an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b) listing *Block* as a reference for the Examiner's consideration. Thereafter, Examiner Edward R. Cosimano considered *Block*, as evidenced in the initialed copy of the form PTO 1449 included with the Office Action mailed July 11, 2002. After considering *Block* on two separate occasions, Examiner Edward R. Cosimano allowed the currently pending claims (claims 1-19). Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the basis set forth in the present Office Action for having withdrawn the present claims from issue is inaccurate and improper.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of Claim 7

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action states "Claim 7, line 2 the recitation of 'said postage storage device' lacks antecedent basis." Office Action Page 2. Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite "a postage storage device." Applicant believes claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

IV. Objections of Claims 11-16

Claims 11-16, although indicated as objected to in the Office Action Summary, are not specifically addressed within the body of the Office Action. Applicant presumes that these claims stand objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would stand allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. If Applicant's presumption is incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner set forth the basis for the objection so that Applicant may have a full and fair opportunity to respond. See M.P.E.P. § 707.

V. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections of Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 17-19**A. General**

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Block, United States Patent No. 6,010,156 (hereinafter *Block*). Applicant hereby transposes the outstanding rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks contained herein.

Although Applicant does not concede that *Block* is prior art to the present claims, Applicant has set forth arguments distinguishing the pending claims over the disclosure of *Block* because it is believed that such clear distinctions will result in the expeditions issuance of the present claims. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to contest the availability of *Block* as prior art.

B. Prima Face Case for Anticipation

In order for a claim to properly stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element of the claimed invention. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." M.P.E.P. 2131, citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim." M.P.E.P. 2131, citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully contends *Block* fails to meet these requirements.

C. Independent Claim 1

Block fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1. Claim 1 recites “to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet.” *Block* does not teach printing a plurality of meter stamps simultaneously. Instead *Block* teaches printing labels consecutively. Col. 5, lines 22-31. Furthermore, *Block* purposefully structured the system for consecutive, independent, printing of postage meter stamps. *Block* designed each field 107 as a unitary group of labels which must affix “to a single item.” Col. 3, lines 42. Because, each individual label is separated and applied to a mail item after printing and before printing subsequent labels, the user is prevented from affixing the wrong labels to a mail item. Col. 3, lines 42-45, and Col. 5, lines 22-29. *Block* does not teach “substantially simultaneously print[ing] a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet.” Col. 5, lines 29-31. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts *Block* fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1 making claim 1 patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of record. Moreover, Applicant asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify *Block* to meet the present claims as the disclosure of *Block* teaches away from the present invention.

D. Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-10, and 17-19

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, and 17-19 depend from claim 1, and thus inherit all the limitations of that independent claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-6, 8-10, and 17-19 are allowable, at least, for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claims 2-6, 8-10, and 17-19. Furthermore, the dependent claims teach further limitations not taught by *Block*.

For example, *Block* fails to disclose the additional limitations in claims 3 and 4. The Office Action points to col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 5 as teaching these additional limitations, however while the cited lines disclose a postage indicia label 305, *Block* does not teach label 305 as including “a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted” or “a location from which an item bearing said postage meter stamp is to be posted.” See claim 3, claim 4, and col. 4, lines 60-65 of *Block*. Furthermore, while *Block* goes on to disclose additional labels bearing other information, *Block* fails to suggest that label 305 could bear the additional information required by claims 3 and 4. Col. 5, lines 2-3.

Therefore, because *Block* fails to teach label 305 as including a date or location from which the item bearing the meter stamp must be mailed, Applicant respectfully asserts claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the rejections of record.

Likewise, *Block* fails to suggest the additional limitations in claims 9 and 10. The Office Action again points to col. 4, line 25 – col. 5, line 5 as disclosing these additional limitations, however while the cited lines teach a postage indicia label 305, *Block* fails to disclose the label 305 including “a unique identification of said postage storage device,” as recited in claim 9, “wherein said unique identification of said postage storage device is a serial number” as claimed in claim 10. Furthermore, while *Block* goes on to disclose additional labels bearing other information, *Block* fails to suggest that label 305 could bear the additional information required by claims 9 and 10. As a result, because *Block* fails to teach all the limitations of claims 9 and 10, Applicant respectfully asserts claims 9 and 10 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections of record.

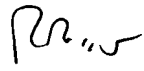
VI. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 61135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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